

CAAT

**Previous Year
Solved Question
Papers**

2012

INSTRUCTIONS – Please read these carefully before attempting the test

1. This test is based on pattern of previous years' CAT papers.
2. There are three sections.
Section 1- English & Reading Comprehension (50 questions)
Section 2- Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation (50 questions)
Section 3- Data Interpretation & Data Sufficiency (50 questions)
3. ***The total time allotted is 2 hours exactly.*** Please note your start time and end time on the answer sheet. Do not take more than 2 hours, or you will get a wrong assessment.
4. Please fill all the details, as asked on top of the answer sheet.
5. Please try to maximize your attempt overall, ***but you need to do well in all sections.***
6. ***There is 1 mark for every right answer and 0.25 negative mark for every wrong one.***
7. There is no sectional time limit.
8. Since it is a time constrained test and you have 2 hours, and all questions carry equal marks, please do not get stuck on any question, move fast to try and do easier ones.
9. ***Please do all scratch work on paper only, no extra sheets to be used.*** Put all your answers on the answer sheet.
10. ***Relax. You are competing against yourself.***

12. A. I am much more intolerant of a human being's shortcomings than I am of an animal's, but in this respect I have been lucky, for most of the people I have come across have been charming.
 B. Then you come across the unpleasant human animal – the District Officer who drawled, 'We chaps are here to help you chaps,' and then proceeded to be as obstructive as possible.
 C. In these cases of course, the fact that you are an animal collector helps; people always seem delighted to meet someone with such an unusual occupation and go out of their way to assist you.
 D. Fortunately, these types are rare, and the pleasant ones I have met more than compensated for them – but even so, I think I will stick to animals.
 E. When you travel round the world collecting animals you also, of necessity, collect human beings.
 [1] EA CBD [2] ABDCE [3] ECBDA [4] ACBDE
13. A. Four days later, Oracle announced its own bid for PeopleSoft, and invited the firm's board to a discussion.
 B. Furious that his own plans had been endangered, PeopleSoft's boss, Craig Conway, called Oracle's offer "diabolical", and its boss, Larry Ellison, a "sociopath".
 C. In early June, PeopleSoft said that it would buy J.D. Edwards, a smaller rival.
 D. Moreover, said Mr. Conway, he "could imagine no price nor combination of price and other conditions to recommend accepting the offer."
 E. On June 12th, PeopleSoft turned Oracle down.
 [1] CABDE [2] CADBE [3] CEDAB [4] CAEBD
14. A. A few months ago I went to Princeton University to see what the young people who are going to be running our country in a few decades are like.
 B. I would go to sleep in my hotel room around midnight each night, and when I awoke, my mailbox would be full of replies—sent at 1:15 a.m., 2:59 a.m., 3:23 a.m.
 C. One senior told me that she went to bed around two and woke up each morning at seven; she could afford that much rest because she had learned to supplement her full day of work by studying in her sleep.
 D. Faculty members gave me the names of a few dozen articulate students, and I sent them e-mails, inviting them out to lunch or dinner in small groups.
 E. As she was falling asleep she would recite a math problem or a paper topic to herself; she would then sometimes dream about it, and when she woke up, the problem might be solved.
 [1] DABCE [2] DACEB [3] ADBCE [4] AECBD
15. A. To avoid this, the QWERTY layout put the keys most likely to be hit in rapid succession on opposite sides. This made the keyboard slow, the story goes, but that was the idea.
 B. A different layout, which had been patented by August Dvorak in 1936, was shown to be much faster.
 C. The QWERTY design (patented by Christopher Sholes in 1868 and sold to Remington in 1873) aimed to solve a mechanical problem of early typewriters.
 D. Yet the Dvorak layout has never been widely adopted, even though (with electric typewriters and then PCs) the anti-jamming rationale for QWERTY has been defunct for years.
 E. When certain combinations of keys were struck quickly, the type bars often jammed.
 [1] BDACE [2] CEABD [3] BCDEA [4] CAEBD

DIRECTIONS for Questions 16 to 20: There are two gaps in each of the following sentences. From the pairs of words given, choose the one that fills the gaps most appropriately. The first word in the pair should fill the first gap.

16. Early _____ of maladjustment to college culture is _____ by the tendency to develop friendship networks outside college which mask signals of maladjustment.
 [1] treatment, compounded [2] detection, facilitated
 [3] identification, complicated [4] prevention, helped

17. The British retailer, M&S, today formally _____ defeat in its attempt to _____ King's, its US subsidiary, since no potential purchasers were ready to cough up the necessary cash.
 [1] admitted, acquire [2] conceded, offload
 [3] announced, dispose [4] ratified, auction
18. Companies that try to improve employees' performance by _____ rewards encourage negative kinds of behaviour instead of _____ a genuine interest in doing the work well.
 [1] giving, seeking [2] bestowing, discouraging
 [3] conferring, discrediting [4] withholding, fostering
19. A growing number of these expert professionals _____ having to train foreigners as the students end up _____ the teachers who have to then unhappily contend with no jobs at all or new jobs with drastically reduced pay packets.
 [1] resent, replacing [2] resist, challenging
 [3] welcome, assisting [4] are, supplanting
20. The _____ regions of Spain all have unique cultures, but the _____ views within each region make the issue of an acceptable common language of instruction an even more contentious one.
 [1] different, discrete [2] distinct, disparate
 [3] divergent, distinct [4] different, competing

DIRECTIONS for Questions 21 to 25: The poem given below is followed by five questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

As you set out for Ithaka
 hope the journey is a long one,
 full of adventure, full of discovery.
 Laistrygonians and Cyclops,
 angry Poseidon - don't be afraid of them:
 you'll never find things like that on your way
 as long as you keep your thoughts raised high,
 as long as a rare excitement
 stirs your spirit and your body.
 Laistrygonians and Cyclops,
 wild Poseidon - you won't encounter them
 unless you bring them along inside your soul,
 unless your soul sets them up in front of you.

Hope the voyage is a long one,
 may there be many a summer morning when,
 with what pleasure, what joy,
 you come into harbours seen for the first time;
 may you stop at Phoenician trading stations
 to buy fine things,
 mother of pearl and coral, amber and ebony,
 sensual perfume of every kind -
 as many sensual perfumes as you can;
 and may you visit many Egyptian cities
 to gather stores of knowledge from their scholars.

Keep Ithaka always in your mind.

Arriving there is what you are destined for.
But do not hurry the journey at all.
Better if it lasts for years,
so you are old by the time you reach the island,
wealthy with all you have gained on the way,
not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.

Ithaka gave you the marvellous journey,
without her you would not have set out.
She has nothing left to give you now.

And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,
you will have understood by then what these Ithakas mean.

21. Which of the following best reflects the central theme of this poem?
[1] If you don't have high expectations, you will not be disappointed.
[2] Don't rush to your goal; the journey is what enriches you.
[3] The longer the journey the greater the experiences you gather.
[4] You cannot reach Ithaka without visiting Egyptian ports.
22. The poet recommends a long journey. Which of the following is the most comprehensive reason for it?
[1] You can gain knowledge as well as sensual experience.
[2] You can visit new cities and harbours.
[3] You can experience the full range of sensuality.
[4] You can buy a variety of fine things.
23. In the poem, Ithaka is a symbol of
[1] the divine mother. [2] your inner self.
[3] the path to wisdom. [4] life's distant goal.
24. What does the poet mean by 'Laistrygonians' and 'Cyclops'?
[1] Creatures which, along with Poseidon, one finds during a journey.
[2] Mythological characters that one should not be afraid of.
[3] Intra-personal obstacles that hinder one's journey.
[4] Problems that one has to face to derive the most from one's journey.
25. Which of the following best reflects the tone of the poem?
[1] Prescribing. [2] Exhorting. [3] Pleading. [4] Consoling.

DIRECTIONS for Questions 26 to 50: Each of the five passages given below is followed by five questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

PASSAGE I

The controversy over genetically-modified food continues unabated in the West. Genetic modification (GM) is the science by which the genetic material of a plant is altered, perhaps to make it more resistant to pests or killer weeds, or to enhance its nutritional value. Many food biotechnologists claim that GM will be a major contribution of science to mankind in the 21st century. On the other hand, large numbers of opponents, mainly in Europe, claim that the benefits of GM are a myth propagated by multinational corporations to increase their profits, that they pose a health hazard, and have therefore called for governments to ban the sale of genetically-modified food.

The anti-GM campaign has been quite effective in Europe, with several European Union member countries imposing a virtual ban for five years over genetically-modified food imports. Since the genetically-

modified food industry is particularly strong in the United States of America, the controversy also constitutes another chapter in the US-Europe skirmishes which have become particularly acerbic after the US invasion of Iraq.

To a large extent, the GM controversy has been ignored in the Indian media, although Indian biotechnologists have been quite active in GM research. Several groups of Indian biotechnologists have been working on various issues connected with crops grown in India. One concrete achievement which has recently figured in the news is that of a team led by the former vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Asis Datta—it has successfully added an extra gene to potatoes to enhance the protein content of the tuber by at least 30 percent. Not surprisingly, the new potato has been called the protato. The protato is now in its third year of field trials. It is quite likely that the GM controversy will soon hit the headlines in India since a spokesperson of the Indian Central government has recently announced that the government may use the protato in its midday meal programme for schools as early as next year.

Why should "scientific progress", with huge potential benefits to the poor and malnourished, be so controversial? The anti-GM lobby contends that pernicious propaganda has vastly exaggerated the benefits of GM and completely evaded the costs which will have to be incurred if the genetically-modified food industry is allowed to grow unchecked. In particular, they allude to different types of costs.

This group contends that the most important potential cost is that the widespread distribution and growth of genetically-modified food will enable the corporate world (alias the multinational corporations—MNCs) to completely capture the food chain. A "small" group of biotech companies will patent the transferred genes as well as the technology associated with them. They will then buy up the competing seed merchants and seed-breeding centres, thereby controlling the production of food at every possible level. Independent farmers, big and small, will be completely wiped out of the food industry. At best, they will be reduced to the status of being subcontractors.

This line of argument goes on to claim that the control of the food chain will be disastrous for the poor since the MNCs, guided by the profit motive, will only focus on the high-value food items demanded by the affluent. Thus, in the long run, the production of basic staples which constitute the food basket of the poor will taper off. However, this vastly overestimates the power of the MNCs. Even if the research promoted by them does focus on the high-value food items, much of biotechnology research is also funded by governments in both developing and developed countries. Indeed, the protato is a by-product of this type of research. If the protato passes the field trials, there is no reason to believe that it cannot be marketed in the global potato market. And this type of success story can be repeated with other basic food items.

The second type of cost associated with the genetically-modified food industry is environmental damage. The most common type of "genetic engineering" involves gene modification in plants designed to make them resistant to applications of weed-killers. This then enables farmers to use massive dosages of weed-killers so as to destroy or wipe out all competing varieties of plants in their fields. However, some weeds through genetically-modified pollen contamination may acquire resistance to a variety of weed-killers. The only way to destroy these weeds is through the use of ever-stronger herbicides which are poisonous and linger on in the environment.

26. The author doubts the anti-GM lobby's contention that MNC control of the food chain will be disastrous for the poor because
- [1] MNCs will focus on high-value food items.
 - [2] MNCs are driven by the motive of profit maximization.
 - [3] MNCs are not the only group of actors in genetically-modified food research.
 - [4] economic development will help the poor buy MNC-produced food.
27. Using the clues in the passage, which of the following countries would you expect to be in the forefront of the anti-GM campaign?
- [1] USA and Spain.
 - [2] India and Iraq.
 - [3] Germany and France.
 - [4] Australia and New Zealand.

28. Genetic modification makes plants more resistant to killer weeds. However, this can lead to environmental damage by
- [1] wiping out competing varieties of plants which now fall prey to killer weeds.
 - [2] forcing application of stronger herbicides to kill weeds which have become resistant to weak herbicides.
 - [3] forcing application of stronger herbicides to keep the competing plants weed-free.
 - [4] not allowing growth of any weeds, thus reducing soil fertility.
29. Which of the following about the Indian media's coverage of scientific research does the passage seem to suggest?
- [1] Indian media generally covers a subject of scientific importance when its mass application is likely.
 - [2] Indian media's coverage of scientific research is generally dependent on MNCs' interests.
 - [3] Indian media, in partnership with the government, is actively involved in publicizing the results of scientific research.
 - [4] Indian media only highlights scientific research which is funded by the government.
30. According to the passage, biotechnology research
- [1] is of utility only for high value food items.
 - [2] is funded only by multinational corporations.
 - [3] allows multinational corporations to control the food basket of the poor.
 - [4] is funded mainly by the government of both the rich and poor countries.

PASSAGE II

Social life is an outflow and meeting of personality, which means that its end is the meeting of temperament, and sensibility, in which our thoughts and feelings, and sense perceptions are brought into their lightest and yet keenest.

This aspect, to my thinking, is realized as much in large parties composed of casual acquaintances strangers, as in intimate meetings of old friends. I am not one of those superior persons who hold cocktail in contempt, looking upon them as barren or at best as very tryingly kaleidoscopic places for gathering, of the strangers one has to meet in them; which is no argument, for even our most intimate friends must at one time have been strangers to us. These large gatherings will be only what we make of them—if not better, they can be as good places to collect new friends from as the slave-markets of Istanbul were for slaves or New Market for race horses.

But they do offer more immediate enjoyment. For one thing, in them one can see the external expression life in appearance and behaviour at its widest and most varied—where one can admire beauty of body or voices remarkable either for sweetness or refinement, look on elegance of clothes or deportment. What these parties are schools for training in sociability, for in them we have to treat strangers as friends. So, in them we see social sympathy in widest commonalty spread, or at least should. We show an atrophy of the natural human instinct of getting pleasure and happiness out of other human beings if we cannot treat strangers for the moment. And I would go further and paraphrase Pater to say that not to be able to discriminate every moment some passionate attitude in those about us, even when we meet them casually, is on this short day of frost and sun which our life is, to sleep before evening.

So, it will be seen that my conception of social life is modest, for it makes no demands on what we *have*, thought it does make some on what we *are*. Interest, wonder, sympathy, and love, the first two leading to the last the psychological prerequisites for social life; and the need for the first two must not be underrated. We make the most even of our intimate social life unless we are able to make strangers of our oldest friends by discovering unknown areas in their personality, and transform them into new friends. In sum, social life is a function of vitality.

It is tragic, however, to observe that it is these very natural springs of social life which are drying up among us. It is becoming more and more difficult to come across fellow-feeling for human beings as such in our society – and in all its strata. In the poor middle class, in the course of all my life, I have hardly seen any social life so-called. Not only has the grinding routine of making a living killed all desire for it in them, it generated a standing mood of peevish hostility to other human beings. Increasing economic distress in recent years has infinitely worsened this state of affairs, and has also brought a sinister addition—class hatred, become the greatest collective emotional enjoyment of the poor middle class, and indeed they feel more when they form a pack, and snarl or howl at people who are better off than they.

Their most innocent exhibition of sociability is seen when they spill out from their intolerable homes streets and bazaars. I was astonished to see the milling crowds in the poor suburbs of Calcutta. But even there a group of flippant young loafers would put on a conspiratorial look if they saw a man in good clothes pass them either on foot or in a car. I had borrowed a car from a relative to visit a friend in one of these suburbs he became very anxious when I had not returned before dusk. Acid and bombs, he said, were thrown almost every evening in that area. I was amazed. But I also know as a fact that my brother was blackmailed to pay five rupees on a trumped up charge when passing in a car through one such locality.

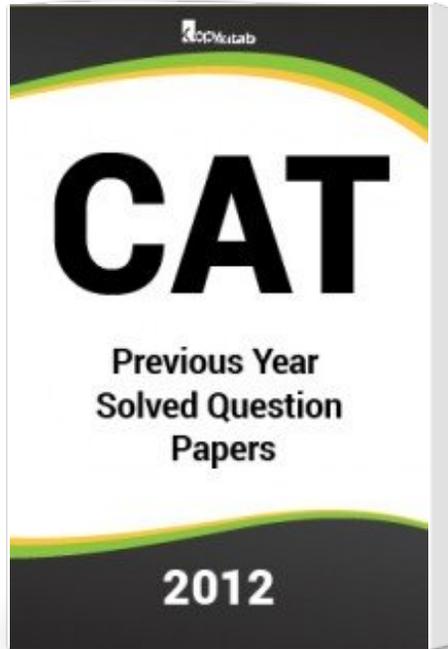
The situation is differently inhuman, but not a whit more human, among the well-to-do. Kindliness for fellow-human beings has been smothered in them, taken as a class, by the arrogance of worldly position, which among the Bengalis who show this snobbery is often only a third-class position.

31. The word 'they' in the first sentence of the third paragraph refers to
[1] Large parties consisting of casual acquaintances and strangers.
[2] Intimate meetings of old friends.
[3] New friends.
[4] Both 1 & 2.
32. The author's conception of 'social life' requires that
[1] people attend large gatherings.
[2] people possess qualities like wonder and interest.
[3] people do not spend too much time in the company of intimate friends.
[4] large parties consist of casual acquaintances and intimate friends.
33. In this passage the author is essentially
[1] showing how shallow our social life is.
[2] poking fun at the lower middle class people who howl at better off people.
[3] lamenting the drying up of our real social life.
[4] criticizing the upper class for lavish showy parties.
34. The word 'discriminate' in the last sentence of the third paragraph means
[1] recognise. [2] count. [3] distinguish. [4] analyse.
35. What is the author trying to show through the two incidents in the paragraph beginning, "Their most innocent exhibition of sociability...?"
[1] The crowds in poor Calcutta suburbs can turn violent without any provocation.
[2] Although poor, the people of poor Calcutta suburbs have a rich social life.
[3] It is risky for rich people to move around in poor suburbs.
[4] Achieving a high degree of sociability does not stop the poor from hating the rich.

PASSAGE III

At the heart of the enormous boom in wine consumption that has taken place in the English-speaking world over the last two decades or so is a fascinating, happy paradox. In the days when wine was exclusively the preserve of a narrow cultural elite, bought either at auctions or from gentleman wine merchants in wing collars and bow-ties, to be stored in rambling cellars and decanted to order by one's butler, the ordinary drinker didn't get a look-in. Wine was considered a highly technical subject, in which anybody without the necessary ability could only fall flat on his or her face in embarrassment. It wasn't just that you needed a

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